

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 H-02 L-03 DHA-02 NSC-05

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R 161139Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5258

CONFIDENTIAL BELGRADE 263

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC PFOR YO (TOTH, LASZLO)

REF: 75 STATE 304308, 75 BELGRADE 6838

1. TOTH'S SISTER CAME TO EMBASSY ON 9 JAN. SHE  
CAME TO BELGRADE AT SUGGESTION OF TOTH'S ATTORNEY TO SEEK  
PERMISSION FROM FEDERAL SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
(FSFA) TO VISIT TOTH WHOM SHE HAS NOT SEEN FOR SEVERAL  
MONTHS. CONOFF EXPLAINED THAT IT HIS OPINION FSFA NOT  
PROPER SECRETARIAT TO SEEK SUCH PERMISSION AND SUGGESTED  
THAT SHE CONTACT INTERIOR MINISTRSAIYKSUP). SHE INSISTED  
SHE HAD BEEN TOLD TO GO TO FSFA. WHENYHE LATER WENT  
TO FSFA SHE WAS TOLD THEY HAVE NO JURISDICTION OVER  
CASE. SHE SAID SHE WOULD PURSUE HER EFFORTS IN NOVI SAD.

2. TOTH'S SISTER SAID SHE DOES NOT HAVE COPY OF COURT  
JUDGMENT AND HAS NOT SEEN ANY WHICH LAWYER HAS. SHE  
SAID SHE HAS NO IDEA WHERE MRS. TOTH GOT IMPRESSION SHE  
HAD COPY OR THAT EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK OUT TOTH'S AUNT.

3. SHE DOES NOT KNOW WHEN APPEAL WILL BE HEARD BUT  
THINKS IT MIGHT BE LATE FEBRUARY.

4. SHE LEFT THREE LETTERS FROM TOTH, ALL WRITTEN ON  
TOILET PAPER AND RECENTLY SMUGGLED OUT OF PRISON AND  
GIVEN HER BY YUGOSLAV WHO HAD BEEN IN JAIL WITH TOTH.

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ONE LETTER IS ADDRESSED TO TOTH'S WIFE, WRITTEN IN

ENGLISH, DATED AUG 17, IN WHICH HE AGAIN REVIEWS  
REASONS FOR VISIT TO FACTORY AND EVENTS SURROUNDING

HIS ARREST. SECOND LETTER IS ALSO ADDRESSED TO HIS WIFE,  
WRITTEN IN SERBO-CROATIAN AND DATED DEC 17, 1975.  
IN IT TOTH COMPLAINS THAT FACTORY MANAGER LIED AT TRIAL  
AND DENIED THAT HE HAD GIVEN PERMISSION TO TAKE  
PHOTOGRAPHS. TOTH SAYS THAT WRITTEN VERDICT WHICH HE  
RECEIVED THREE WEEKS AFTER TRIAL IS ALL "FABRICATED".  
HE MENTIONS IN THIS LETTER THAT "DURING JANUARY OUR  
FATE WILL BE DECIDED", OBVIOUSLY REFERRING TO APPEAL TO  
SUPREME COURT OF VOJVODINA. HE ALSO REFERS TO THIRD  
LETTER, UNDATED, ADDRESSED TO "BETTY" WHO APPEARS TO  
BE EMPLOYEE OF GREAT WESTERN SURR. IT IS WRITTEN IN  
FORM OF AN ARTICLE FOR "TIME" MAGAZINE WHICH TOTH  
URGES BETTY AND WIFE TO TRY TO GET PUBLISHED. HE AGAIN  
REVIEWS EVENTS SURROUNDING HIS ARREST AND ASKS HOW HE  
COULD HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS IN PRISON.

3. EMBASSY WILL SEND THESE LETTERS TO MRS. TOTH AND  
WILL ASK HER TO HOLD THEM CLOSELY. IT WOULD NOT HELP

TOTH'S CASE IF AUTHORITIES DISCOVERED HE WAS SMUGGLING  
LETTERS OUT OF PRISON. SILBERMAN

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